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TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

November 11, 2012
Dear fellow Texans:

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Americans will pause to honor our Veterans in countless ceremonies across the United States with time-honored traditions to commemorate the thousands of service members who have served our country over the past 237 years.

Since Armistice Day in 1919, which became known as Veterans Day in 1954, Americans have remembered those service members who have stood tall battling enemies both foreign and domestic in the quest for freedom and the pursuit of happiness, a tradition that makes us all proud to be Americans.

Texas Veterans deserve the same loyalty from the people they served and continue to serve. As Theodore Roosevelt once said in a speech to Veterans in Springfield, Illinois, in 1903, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

As advocates for Veterans and their families in Texas, every day is Veterans Day for us at the Texas Veterans Commission. Since 1927 we have continually sought to ensure the Veterans of Texas receive their square deal. Our agency consists of over 300 skilled counselors, and we are Veterans serving Veterans. With your help and the help of our Legislature, we will continue in our commitment through our four program areas of claims counseling, employment, education, and grants. Texas Veterans are being served daily at the community level through some critical TVC programs and initiatives. Non-profit and local government organizations are funded through the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance Grants and Housing4TexasHeroes. Additionally our State Strike Force Teams have been working diligently since August to beat the US. Department of Veterans Affairs backlog and to date we have presented over 2,200 cases to the VA for action.

A Veteran is a fellow citizen, a man or woman who at one significant point in his or her life, made out a blank check payable to the United States of America for any amount up to and including life itself. I want to personally thank all Veterans for their service to our country and remind Texans that our Veterans deserve nothing less than to be honored on this day and all year.

Sincerely,

ELISEO "AL" CANTU
Chairman, Texas Veterans Commission